

APPENDIX V-36

Culturally Relevant Criteria:
For review of benchmark reading passages

INDICATOR	EXAMPLES
Positive representation of the cultures of student demographic	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Students see themselves, their family, and their culture represented • Students' cultures are validated • Characters in passages have pride in their culture • A balance of people of color are at the center of the information presented • Counter-stories, that highlight the voices and views of people of color, make up majority of passages • Inspirational content • History, ideas, or cultural traditions and customs presented are representative of our student demographic
Congruent (to TUSD population) representation of text written by people of color	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Written by authors of color if writing about a person of color's experience <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Narrative is in first person author referring to their experience as a person of color
Historically Accurate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Presents various sides of a historical event/issue <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Does not present accounts of history from a single perspective (i.e. Eurocentric viewpoint) • Accurate information on historical events/issues • Careful not to present the financial gains of emotionally charged topics like slavery, genocide, exploitation as positive <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Down-playing the atrocities of human enslavement (including African and Native American) when talking about the “development of America” • Careful not to present starting point of “American” history in 1492 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Excluding the history of Native people pre-Columbus (1492) ○ Framing Native Americans as a people of the past ○ Not recognizing Native American resistance to American encroachment
Non-essentializing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Does not promote generalizations or simplification of groups of people • Does not recognize diversity among experiences
Non-stereotypical	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Does not perpetuate any stereotypes about any group of people
Main characters/protagonist are people of color	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Highlights those who have been historically silenced in texts

Accurate usage of language conventions	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Imprecise or exclusionary to say “our/the founding fathers of America” when referring to the framers of the constitution• Enslavement vs. Slavery
Representation of Holidays	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Representative of the holidays/traditions of student demographic<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Yoeme and Tohono O’odham “holidays” annual celebrations- Pascua/Agricultural Ceremonies○ Representative of a diversity of holidays not just Judeo-Christian traditions
Representation of Religion	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Careful not to present single belief/tradition